

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR LE

SUBJECT: ROSE AL-YUSUF ON LT. AHMAD KHATIB

1. EGYPTIAN LEFTIST WEEKLY ROSE AL-YUSUF DEVOTES FOUR PAGES OF CURRENT ISSUE TO INTERVIEW ALLEGEDLY GIVEN BY RENEGADE LEBANESE ARMY LIEUTENANT AHMAD KHATIB TO REPORTER BAKR AL-SHARQAWI. INTERVIEW IS DATED BEKAA, BUT NO DATE IS GIVEN. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF ARTICLE.

2. INTERVIEWER CLAIMS KHATIB HAS 25,000 (SIC) ADHERENTS, CHIEFLY FROM LEBANESE ARMY AND HAS "SUFFICIENT" MILITARY EQUIPMENT. KHATIB IS QUOTED AS ADMIRING EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION BECAUSE IT WAS A MILITARY MOVEMENT WITH SOCIAL AND POLITICAL AIMS. HE REPORTEDLY CLAIMED HIS GROUP, "ARAB ARMY OF LEBANON," HAS 17-POINT PLITICAL PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT STIPULATING LEBANON IS PART OF ARAB NATION. HIS "PLAN," WHICH TOOK THREE MONTHS TO COMPLETE, WAS IMPLEMENTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING PARTITION, KHATIB IS, HOWEVER, NOW "COMMITTED" TO CEASE-FIRE. KHATIB IS QUOTED AS SAYING ONE-THIRD OF LEBANESE ARMY JOINED HIM AND ANOTHER THIRD SYMPATHIZES WITH HIS GOALS. HE ALLEGES RIGHTIST LEBANESE ARMY IS NO MORE SINCE THERE ARE LARGE NUMBER

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OF CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS WHO ARE LEFTIST AND PROGRSSIVE.

3. COMMENT: ROSE AL-UYSUF IS EGYPT'S LEADING LEFTIST
PUBLICATION AND IS CONSISTENTLY PRO-SOVIET. BAKR
SHARQAWI IS A NEW NAME TO US AND COULD POSSIBLY BE A
PSEUDONYM.
EILTS

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